

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please rewrite the claims as follows:

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1. (Currently Amended) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
an image pickup means for picking device which picks up an  
image of an object to be recorded;  
an operation means for operating an image pickup timing unit  
which controls said image pickup device for image picking up the object  
to be recorded, said operating means having a first operation and a second  
operation; and  
a white balance control means unit, having a first information  
acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in  
accordance with first before said second operation by said operation  
means unit and executing an image pickup operation of said image pickup  
means device in accordance with said second operation of said operation  
unit at a timing after said the first operation timing, and a second  
information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white  
balance in accordance with the said second operation, for controlling  
wherein said white balance control unit controls white balance of an image  
picked up in accordance with the said second operation on operation, on  
the basis of the information about white balance which are obtained in the  
said first and said second modes information acquisition operations.

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2. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said apparatus further comprises comprising a display means for  
displaying unit which displays an image picked up by said image pickup  
means device, said white balance control means unit controls white  
balance of the image displayed by said display means unit, and the  
information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information  
acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image  
displayed by said display means unit.

3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said white balance control means unit computes information about white  
balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the an~~  
image picked up by said image pickup means device at the first operation  
timing.

4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said white balance control means unit uses information about white  
balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed  
by said display means unit at the first operation timing, as information  
about white balance in the first information acquisition mode.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said white balance control means unit acquires information about white

balance in the second information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

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6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a strobe means for illuminating unit which illuminates an object;

and

a storage means storing unit which stores information about white

balance when said strobe means unit illuminates the object,

wherein said white balance control means unit computes information

about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second

operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is

obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the

basis of the first operation and information about white balance stored in

said storage means unit, when said white balance control means unit

causes said strobe means unit to illuminate the object in the first

information acquisition mode.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control means unit controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and information about white balance stored in said storage

means unit, when said white balance control means unit causes said strobe means unit to illuminate the object in the first information acquisition mode.

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8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said white balance control means unit controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second information acquisition mode information about white balance stored in said storage means unit, when said white balance control means unit causes said strobe means unit to illuminate the object in the second information acquisition mode.

9. (Currently Amended) An image pickup method comprising:  
an image pickup step for picking up an image of an object to be recorded;  
an operation step of operating an image pickup timing for image picking up controlling image pickup of the object to be recorded; and  
a control step, having a first information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with first before a second operation in said operation step and executing an image pickup operation in the image pickup step in accordance with said second operation in said operation step at a timing after the a first operation

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timing in said operation step, and a second information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with the said second operation in said operation step, of controlling wherein said control step controls white balance of an image picked up in accordance with the said second operation on operation, on the basis of the information about white balance ~~which are~~ obtained in the first and second ~~modes~~ information acquisition operations.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising a display step of displaying an image picked up in the image pickup step, wherein said control step controls white balance of the displayed image, and the information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image displayed in said display step.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the~~ an image picked up in the image pickup step at the first operation timing.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in said display step at the

first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode.

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13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, wherein said control step acquires information about white balance in the second information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 9, further comprising:

an illumination step of illuminating an object;  
a storing step of storing information about white balance when the object is illuminated in said illumination step; and  
wherein said control step computes information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in

accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

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16. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, wherein said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about white balance acquired in the second information acquisition mode and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the second information acquisition mode.

17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium for computer-readable storing a program for executing an image pickup method, the image pickup method comprising:

an image pickup step for picking up an image of an object to be recorded;

an operation step of ~~operating an image pickup timing for~~ controlling image picking up pickup of the object to be recorded; and

a control step, having a first information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance ~~in accordance with first before~~ a second operation in said operation step and executing an image pickup

operation in the image pickup step in accordance with said second operation in said operation step at a timing after ~~the first operation timing~~ said first operation in said operation step, and a second information acquisition mode of acquiring information about white balance in accordance with ~~the~~ said second operation in said operation step, ~~for controlling wherein said control step controls~~ white balance of an image picked up in accordance with ~~the~~ said second ~~operation on the basis~~ operation, on the basis of the information about white balance ~~which are~~ obtained in the first and second ~~modes~~ information acquisition operations.

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18. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprising a display step of displaying an image picked up in said image pickup step, said control step controls white balance of the displayed image, and the information about white balance ~~which is~~ acquired in the first information acquisition mode uses information about the white balance of the image displayed by said display step.

19. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step computes information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode on the basis of ~~the~~ an image picked up in the image pickup means at the first operation ~~timing~~.

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20. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 18, wherein said control step uses information about white balance which is used for controlling white balance of the image displayed in the display step at the first operation timing, as information about white balance in the first information acquisition mode.

21. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein said control step acquires information about white balance in the second information acquisition mode on the basis of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation.

22. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 17, wherein the method further comprising:

an illumination step of illuminating an object;  
a storing step of storing information about white balance when the object is illuminated in said illumination step; and  
computing information about white balance of the image picked up in accordance with the second operation by using a white balance coefficient, as an initial value, which is obtained on the basis of information about white balance acquired on the basis of the first operation and stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition mode.

23. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 22, wherein  
said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in  
accordance with the second operation on the basis of a white balance  
coefficient computed on the basis of computed information about white  
balance and stored information about white balance, when the object is  
illuminated in said illumination step in the first information acquisition  
mode.

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24. (Currently Amended) A medium according to claim 22, wherein  
said control step controls white balance of the image picked up in  
accordance with the second operation on the basis of information about  
white balance acquired in the second information acquisition mode and  
stored information about white balance, when the object is illuminated in  
said illumination step in the second information acquisition mode.

25. (New) An image pickup apparatus comprising:  
an image pickup device which picks up an image of an object;  
a display unit which displays the image picked up by said image  
pickup device; and  
a white balance control unit which performs white balance  
processing on the image,  
wherein the white balance processing performed by said white balance  
control unit is switched in accordance with on and off of said display unit.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a  
strobe unit which illuminates the object, wherein the white balance  
processing performed by said white balance control unit is switched in  
accordance with on and off of said strobe unit.

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